

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The identification of villages for taking up the electrification works is undertaken by the concerned State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments. The electrification of far flung hill, tribal and remote villages is taken up both under REC funded and States Plan Programme. The Rural Electrification Corporation for 1997-98 propose to electrify 500 tribal villages under Tribal Sub-Plan. Besides electrification of other hilly and remote villages is covered under the normal programme.

Revival of AMPCs in Gujarat

3623. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for revival of Centrally sponsored scheme under the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, 1963;

(b) whether the State Government has also requested for financial assistance for the revival of about 171 marketing committees already set up under the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon and financial assistance proposed to be given to be State Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Programme on Golden Jubilee

3624. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any committee has been constituted for the telecast of programmes relating to the golden jubilee celebration of India's Independence on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, terms of reference of the said committee;

(c) the funds spent on each episode of the commissioned programmes of Doordarshan;

(d) the reasons for selling the episodes of the commissioned programmes by some officers holding special posts in the Doordarshan;

(e) the amount in lakhs of rupees given to a particular person of the Human Resource Development Ministry to provide information on those events occurring between 1857 to 1947 which are lesser known; and

(f) the reasons and justification for providing such a huge amount under this head?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) A committee headed by the Director General, Doordarshan and consisting of all Deputy Directors General and Controllers of Programmes in Doordarshan has been formed to approve the themes and programmes relating to Golden Jubilee celebration of India's Independence.

(c) The details are as under :

National Network Rs. 2.50 lakhs per episode

Regional Kendras Rs. 2.00 lakhs per episode

(d) There is no information available relating to sale of episodes of commissioned programmes by anybody.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discretionary Quota of Telephone Connection

3625. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the discretionary quota of telephone connections of all Members of Parliament has been scrapped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore this facility; and

(d) if so, by when this facility is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Mobilisation of Funds

3626. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target for mobilisation of funds by the IRFC during the current year both from Domestic and Foreign Market;

- (b) the steps taken in this regard by now;
- (c) the targets and achievements during 1996-97 in this regard; and
- (d) whether all necessary clearance have been given by the Finance Ministry for such mobilisation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During the year 1997-98, IRFC is targetted to raise Rs. 2150 crore consisting of about Rs. 1610 crore domestic borrowing and Rs. 540 crore external borrowing.

- (b) IRFC have issued taxable and tax-free bonds in the domestic market. IRFC has also raised US\$ 160 million through a Floating Rate Note issue in the International market.
- (c) The target of raising Rs. 1850 crore during the year 1996-97 was achieved.
- (d) Yes, Sir.

Introduction of Train between Faizabad and New Delhi

3627. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to run a new train daily between Faizabad and New Delhi via Pratapgarh and Allahabad;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide the stoppages of trains running between Faizabad and Allahabad at each railway station;
- (d) If so, the details thereof;
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to provide a stoppage of trains at Dhirganj railway station falling in between Bareilly-Lucknow-Pratapgarh-Allahabad-Mughal Sarai route;
- (f) whether all the arrangements for providing passenger amenities and booking of tickets at Dhirganj railway station are being made by the contractors;
- (g) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government for not awarding the contracts to contractors in future keeping in view their bad performances?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a weekly express train between Muzaffarpur and Delhi via Faizabad, Lucknow and Moradabad has been introduced from 06.08.97.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise

(e) Provision of stoppages of additional trains at Dhirganj Railway station has been examined but not found justified.

(f) and (g) Dhirganj is a halt station where all passenger amenities except booking of tickets and cleanliness of platforms have been provided by the Railway. Booking of tickets and cleaning of platforms are being done by the contractor.

(h) The contracts are awarded only to the contractors whose past performance is satisfactory.

Religious Serials

3628. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the religious serials approved by Doordarshan for telecast during 1997-98; and
- (b) the time by which these new religious serials are likely to be telecast and the number of days in a week alongwith the duration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No religious serial has been approved during the year 1997-98.

- (b) Does not arise.

Misappropriation of Funds

3629. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was misappropriation of funds of construction of buildings and other departmental works, such as staff quarters, in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur and Jamshedpur Telecom district under Bihar Telecom circle;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to check these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Migration of Rural People from Madhya Pradesh

3630. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that most of the unemployed landless persons belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes in Madhya Pradesh have to migrate to other States due to ever-increasing unemployment problem in the State; and
- (b) If so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?